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DOCUMENTATION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS

for the

CLARK COUNTY GRAZING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

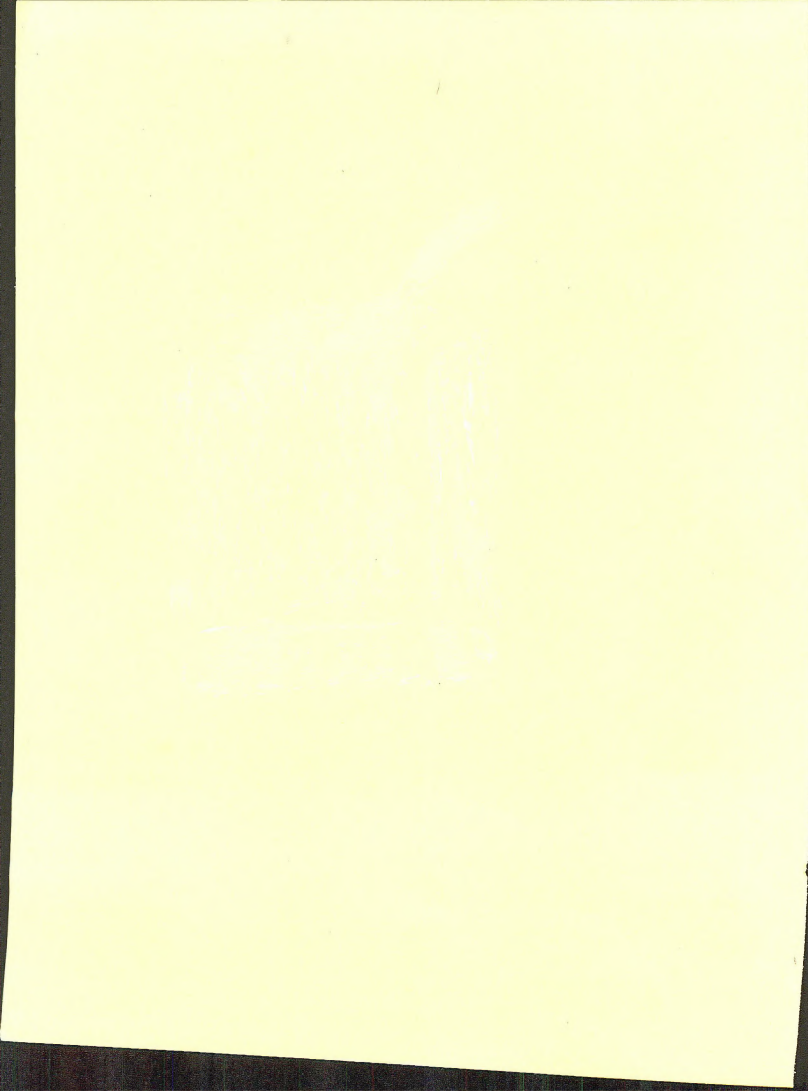
Bureau of Land Management

Las Vegas District, Nevada

February 1982

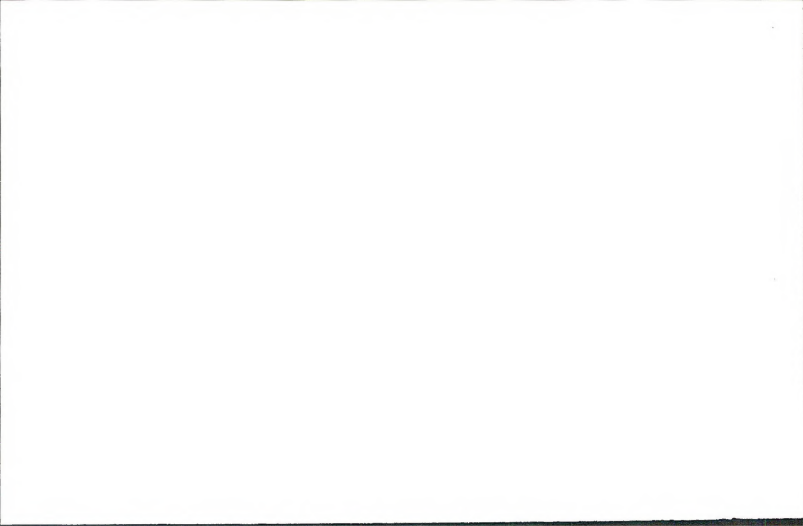
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Change 1

Page 17: As a result of additional consultation with the operator of the White Basin allotment and inspections of the allotment by range conservationists, it has been recommended for reclassification to ephemeral-perennial and for placement in the improve/intensive management category.



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DOCUMENTATION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS

for the

CLARK COUNTY GRAZING EIS

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Denver Federal Center
P. O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225-0047

- A. Background and Need for Scoping
- B. Public Involvement
 - 1. Summary of Contacts
 - 2. Chronology of Events
 - 3. Summary of Comments Received
Log of Official Comments
 - 4. Response to Comments
- C. Conclusion

(For further information contact Kemp Conn,
District Manager, or Ed Ciliberti, EIS
Team Leader, at 4765 W. Vegas Drive,
P.O. Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126, or
(702) 385-6403 or 385-6463.)

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DOCUMENTATION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS

A. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR SCOPING

Final regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Part 1500, provide that there shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. The regulations also direct that BLM shall invite participation by affected Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, and interested persons.

Information is gathered in the course of scoping meetings or workshops, letters in response to news releases, or from direct contacts with interested groups, agencies, and individuals by EIS team members in the course of research. This information is then integrated with existing resource information, particularly the Unit Resource analysis (URA), in preparation of the EIS.

The purpose of scoping is to encourage public input, emphasize the significant issues to be addressed, and to reduce the length of the environmental impact statement by eliminating unnecessary information about insignificant issues.

B. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

1. Summary of Contacts

Through the scoping process, conducted through the months of August and September of 1981, the Las Vegas District contacted interested individuals, groups, and other governmental agencies concerning the preparation of the Clark County Grazing EIS. Initial notification of the scoping process was given in a "Notice of Intent" published in the Federal Register of August 11, 1981.

Letters of invitation to participate in the process were sent to almost 40 organizations, agencies, and persons on August 20, 1981.

Four briefings were held, with 1) the Congressional Delegation representatives in Las Vegas, 2) the Congressional Delegation representatives in Reno and Nevada State Clearinghouse, 3) the Clark County Commission and agencies, and 4) the Las Vegas District Multiple Use Advisory Council. Three scoping workshops were held, in Las Vegas, Searchlight, and Mesquite, Nevada. One formal public scoping meeting was held in Las Vegas.

2. Chronology of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Target Group</u>
February 1981(*)	Unit Resource Analysis Completed	
March 1981(*)	Management Framework Plan Step I Completed	
July 23, 1981	Management Framework Plan Step II Completed	
August 11, 1981	"Notice of Intent" Published in <u>Federal Register</u>	Interested Public
August 12, 1981	Briefing for the Las Vegas area Congressional Delegation representatives	Congressional Interests
August 13, 1981	Briefing for the Reno area Congressional Delegation representatives and the Nevada State Clearinghouse	Congressional Interests, Nevada State Government
August 20, 1981	Letters of invitation to participate and Summary Preparation/Scoping information mailed out	Clark County EIS Mailing List
August 25, 1981	Scoping Workshop held in Searchlight, Nevada	Searchlight area livestock operators and other interested publics
August 26, 1981	Briefing for Clark County Commissioners and Agencies	Clark County Government
August 26, 1981	Scoping Workshop held in Mesquite, Nevada	Mesquite area livestock operators and other interested publics
August 27, 1981	Briefing for the Las Vegas District Multiple Use Advisory Council	District Advisory Council
August 27, 1981	Scoping Workshop held in Las Vegas, Nevada	Las Vegas area livestock operators, special interest groups, and other interested publics

September 2, 1981

Public Scoping Meeting
held in Las Vegas, Nevada

Interested Public

(*) Official approval dates for these documents are much later because of the lag in time between completion of resource specialists' work and the production of the document.

3. Summary of Comments Received

During the two months of the scoping process, over 40 personal contacts were made in informal workshops or formal briefings and meetings, and two written comments were received. Summaries of responses at workshops, briefings, and meetings, and the two letters, are reproduced in this appendix. Significant comments have been numbered and are responded to in the Response to Comments section following the summaries and letters.

Log of Official Comments

No.	Date Received	Agency, Organization, or Individual
1	8/12/81	Congressional Delegation Representatives, Las Vegas, NV
2	8/13/81	Susan Lynn, Congressman Santini's Representative, Reno, NV
3	8/13/81	Nevada State Clearinghouse, Carson City, NV
4	8/25/81	Mr. and Mrs. Ebbie Davis, Searchlight, NV
5	8/25/81	Gene Myers, Searchlight, NV
6	8/25/81	Karl Weikel, Searchlight, NV
7	8/25/81	Ben Baer, Searchlight, NV
8	8/26/81	Clark County Commission and Government Agencies, Las Vegas, NV
9	8/26/81	Foremaster Bros., and Jerry and Russ Riggs, St. George, UT
10	8/26/81	Cliven Bundy and Calvin Adams, Mesquite, NV
11	8/26/81	Melburn Jensen, Mesquite, NV

12	8/26/81	Keith Nay, Mesquite, NV
13	8/26/81	Lowell and Alice Leavitt, Overton, NV
14	8/27/81	Las Vegas District Multiple Use Advisory Council, Las Vegas, NV
15	8/27/81	Al Rosecrans and Dudley Zoller, Las Vegas, NV
16	9/2/81	Nevada Wildlife Federation, Las Vegas, NV
17	9/17/81	U.S. Department of Energy, Las Vegas, NV
18	9/30/81	Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, Las Vegas, NV



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

1

EMPLOYEE Ed Ciliberti

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 12, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED

Clark County MFP 2 and Grazing EIS

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Las Vegas Congressional Delegation Representatives

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Las Vegas, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Congressional Interests

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Briefing

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The following people were in attendance:

Barbara Camacho, Senator Cannon's representative
Louise Ellsworth, Senator Laxalt's representative
Jim Chachas, Representative Santini's representative
Bill Clivish, Las Vegas District, BLM
Ed Ciliberti, Las Vegas District, BLM
Fred King, Las Vegas District, BLM

The representatives were briefed on the MFP Step 2 recommendations and on the proposed action and alternatives for the Clark County Grazing EIS.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

2

EMPLOYEE Ed Ciliberti

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 13, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED

Clark County MFP 2 and Grazing EIS

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Susan Lynn

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Reno, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Representative Santini's representative

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Briefing

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The following people were in attendance:

Susan Lynn, Representative Santini's representative
Bill Clivish, Las Vegas District, BLM
Ed Ciliberti, Las Vegas District, BLM
Marta Adams, Nevada State Office, BLM

Ms. Lynn was briefed on the MFP Step 2 recommendations and on the proposed action and alternatives for the Clark County Grazing EIS.



United States Department of the Interior

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

3

EMPLOYEE Ed Ciliberti

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 13, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED _____

Clark County MFP 2 and Grazing EIS

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Nevada State Clearinghouse

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Carson City, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Nevada State Government

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Briefing

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The following people were in attendance:

Willie Molini, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Jac R. Shaw, Nevada Division of State Lands
Gay McLeary, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Karen Lehman, Senator Laxalt's representative in Reno
Bill Civish, Las Vegas District, BLM
Ed Ciliberti, Las Vegas District, BLM
Marta Adams, Nevada State Office, BLM

The Clearinghouse was briefed on the MFP Step 2 recommendations and on the proposed action and alternatives for the Clark County Grazing EIS.



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4

EMPLOYEE Anna Rubin

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 25, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED Clark County Grazing EIS- Proposed

Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Mr. and Mrs. Ebbie Davis

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Searchlight, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Irebeba Peaks, Table Mountain, and Roach Lake

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

1. The Davises believe that there is no conflict between livestock and desert tortoise for forage. They are concerned about the proposed reservation of forage for tortoise.

2. They question how base herd numbers will be set on those allotments proposed for reclassification to ephemeral/perennial. Range conditions are difficult to foresee for establishment of base herds.

3. What will licensing procedures be for those allotments proposed for reclassification to ephemeral/perennial? Will it be necessary to pay a lump sum once a year?

4. They are not interested in having an Allotment Management Plan.

4-1

4-2



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

5

EMPLOYEE Fred R. King

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 25, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED

Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Gene Myers

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Searchlight, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Christmas Tree Pass Allotment

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

Mr. Myers felt that Christmas Tree Pass should be reclassified to ephemeral-perennial. The major range improvement needed is the development of waters to disperse grazing.

5-1



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

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EMPLOYEE Fred R. King

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 25, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED

Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Karl Welkel

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Searchlight, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Las Vegas District Grazing Advisory Board

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

Mr. Welkel was very supportive of the proposed action and indicated that it was one of the best he had seen. He had several recommendations for range improvements on the Crescent Peak allotment, the only allotment in the county with an Allotment Management Plan:

- 1) Put a tank and pipeline (3 miles) at Crescent Spring.
- 2) Eliminate storage at Cripple Jack Well, because the pump and well are inoperable.
- 3) Drill a well approximately 2 1/2 miles south of Cripple Jack Well, or drill a well approximately 5 miles west of Cripple Jack Well.
- 4) It would be a waste of money to extend the existing YKL pipeline, a vertical well should be drilled instead.

6-1

Mr. Welkel also felt that the reevaluation and update of the Crescent Peak AMP should be made a part of all of the alternatives in the EIS.

6-2



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

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EMPLOYEE Fred R. King

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 25, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED

Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Ben Baer

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Searchlight, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Searchlight Ranch Foreman, Crescent Peak allotment

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

Mr. Baer felt that the proposed alteration (update) in the Crescent Peak AMP should be made a component of all the alternatives in the EIS. He shared the concerns and opinions of Mr. Welkel.

7-1



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

8

EMPLOYEE Ed Ciliberti

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 26, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED

Clark County MFP 2 and Grazing EIS

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Clark County Government

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Las Vegas, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any)

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Briefing

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The following people were in attendance:

Manuel Cortez, County Commission Chairman
Thalia Dondoro, County Commissioner
Bruce Spaulding, County Manager
Donald L. Shalmy, Director, Department of Comprehensive Planning
Rick Holmes, Assistant Director, Department of Comprehensive Planning
Jim Ley, Coordinator, Advance Planning
Bill Buxton, Director, Regional Transportation Commission
Alan Bell, Department of Public Works
Alan Walters, Las Vegas Valley Water District
Bill Clish, Las Vegas District, BLM
Ed Ciliberti, Las Vegas District, BLM

A briefing was conducted on the MFP Step 2 recommendations and on the proposed action and alternatives for the Clark County Grazing EIS.



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

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EMPLOYEE Anna Rubin

OFFICE Las Vegas District

DATE August 26, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed
Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Foremaster Bros., Jerry and Russ Rlogs

ADDRESS OF CONTACT St. George, Utah

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Upper Mormon Mesa Allotment

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The operators on this allotment expressed overall satisfaction with the proposed action, and supported the proposal to reclassify the allotment as ephemeral/perennial and place it in management intensity category M, maintenance.



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

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EMPLOYEE Fred R. King

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 26, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED
Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Cliven Bundy and Calvin Adams

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Mesquite, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Bunkerville Allotment

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

After a brief discussion and explanation, Mr. Bundy and Mr. Adams indicated that the proposed action seemed adequate. Further discussion concerned current practices of the other permittees on the Bunkerville allotment, shared by five operators.



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EMPLOYEE Fred R. King

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 26, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED
Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Melburn Jensen

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Mesquite, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Bunkerville Allotment

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

Mr. Jensen felt that the proposed action for the EIS was satisfactory in general. Further discussion concerned special use areas and problems on the Bunkerville allotment.



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EMPLOYEE Fred R. King

OFFICE Las Vegas District Office

DATE August 26, 1981

PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED
Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action

NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Keith May

ADDRESS OF CONTACT Mesquite, Nevada

INTEREST GROUP (if any) Billy Goat Peak Allotment

FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐

Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

Mr. May noted that Billy Goat Peak was omitted from reclassification to ephemeral-perennial. He was assured that this was a printing error in the scoping document and that his allotment was indeed proposed for reclassification.

Mr. May was concerned that his allotment was proposed for "custodial" management rather than "intensive" management. After discussion, he indicated that he could see little difference from his present operation and that which BLM proposed.

The proposed action appeared adequate, but Mr. May voiced concern over management during the interim period.

12-1



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EMPLOYEE Anna Rubin
 OFFICE Las Vegas District Office
 DATE August 26, 1981
 PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED
Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action
 NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Lovell and Alice Leavitt
 ADDRESS OF CONTACT Overton, Nevada
 INTEREST GROUP (if any) White Basin Allotment
 FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐
 Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The Leavitts were primarily concerned that the Overton Arm portion of the allotment that they graze (White Basin) was the same area as the Overton Arm allotment proposed for "no grazing" in the proposed action. They were assured that these were two separate areas, and that the allotment named Overton Arm has not been grazed for at least the last five years. The Leavitts also indicated that they would like to have the White Basin allotment reclassified as ephemeral-perennial, because there are some areas of perennial forage within the allotment that provide yearlong grazing. Other concerns were about procedures for participating in ephemeral inspections with the BLM personnel.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

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EMPLOYEE Ed Ciliberti
 OFFICE Las Vegas District Office
 DATE August 27, 1981
 PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED
Clark County MFP 2 and Grazing EIS
 NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Las Vegas District Multiple Use Advisory Council
 ADDRESS OF CONTACT Las Vegas, Nevada
 INTEREST GROUP (if any)
 FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐
 Other Briefing

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The following people were in attendance:

Council Members: Horacio Lopez
 Joe Neal
 Harv Elnerwald
 Gretchen Hau
 Robert Rudd
 Bob Forson
 J. Wayne Cole
 Bruce Vomacka

BLM Representatives: Kemp Conn
 Bill Catkins
 Bill Clivish
 Ed Ciliberti

The Advisory Council was briefed on the MFP Step 2 recommendations and on the proposed action and alternatives for the Clark County Grazing EIS.

13-1



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

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EMPLOYEE Anna Rabin
 OFFICE Las Vegas District Office
 DATE August 27, 1981
 PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED
Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action
 NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT Al Rosecrans and Dudley Zoller
 ADDRESS OF CONTACT Las Vegas, Nevada
 INTEREST GROUP (if any) Nevada Wildlife Federation
 FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☐
 Other Informal Scoping Workshop

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The following people were in attendance:

Anna Rabin, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Marta Witt, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Fred King, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Roy Price, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Lou Pizatella, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Al Rosecrans, Nevada Wildlife Federation
 Dudley Zoller, Nevada Wildlife Federation

The primary concerns of Mr. Rosecrans and Mr. Zoller were:

1. In areas where livestock will no longer be grazing what provisions will be made to ensure that water will remain available to wildlife? Operators will have no reason to maintain the waters in their allotments if they can no longer graze those areas.
2. Under management intensity category C, custodial, there is potential for neglect of the wildlife resource. It appears that there will be no supervision of the operators in those allotments classified for custodial management.

15-1



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION SHEET -- VERBAL COMMENTS

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EMPLOYEE Marta Witt
 OFFICE Las Vegas District Office
 DATE September 2, 1981
 PROGRAM AND/OR SPECIFIC AREA DISCUSSED
Clark County Grazing EIS - Proposed Action
 NAME OF PUBLIC CONTACT See Below
 ADDRESS OF CONTACT
 INTEREST GROUP (if any)
 FORM OF INPUT - Telephone ☐ Personal visit ☐ Meeting ☒
 Other

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE INFORMATION RECEIVED OR OPINION EXPRESSED:

The following people were in attendance:

William Civish, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Ed Ciliberti, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Marta Witt, Las Vegas District, BLM
 Ed Tilzey, Nevada State Office, BLM
 Bill Vincent, Nevada Wildlife Federation
 Al Rosecrans, Nevada Wildlife Federation
 Dudley Zoller, Nevada Wildlife Federation
 Keith Nay, Billy Goat Peak allotment
 Pat Martin, Billy Goat Peak allotment

Bill Civish and Ed Ciliberti presented a brief outline of the proposed action and alternatives for the EIS, and an explanation of the management intensity categories for range management in each allotment.

Mr. Zoller commented, with regard to a recent trip to the Gold Butte area, that he would like to know whether any funds would be allocated for road rehabilitation in this area, since he can't see how BLM can even get into the area to evaluate it with such poor access, and also would like to know why the Cedar Basin area appears to be so severely overgrazed.

Mr. Vincent delivered the following formal statement, focusing on the management intensity categories and the apparent benefits to livestock operators in any of the categories:

18

September 28, 1981

Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn
8415 Washburn Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We were unable to attend the public meetings on Grazing Environmental Impact Statement due to the wrong mailing address your office obtained for us. We hope this matter will be cleared up in the future.

We would like to get involved in this process and attend any future house/workshop meetings or assist in any way we can. Also in addition we would like at this time to submit our thoughts and ideas about these matters. Thank you for trying to contact us. We are looking forward to assisting and providing any information we can.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth M. Kelly
Kenneth W. Kelly
President

KWK/ber

18

1. Course of Action I

a. Components

- (1) Allotments which would remain ephemeral-perennial. ~~We~~ We strongly support the allotments that remain ephemeral, oppose the allotment reclassification without more improvement and further intensive management studies.

- (2) Support this action

- (3) Support this action

Category I

Bunkerville
Crescent Peak
Gold Butte
Ireteba Peaks
McCullough Mountain

Category C

Arrow Canyon
Billy Goat Peak
Black Butte
Hen Spring
Muddy Mountains
Ute
Younts Spring

We feel these ranges that are occupied by native bighorn sheep should be identified for more intensive management to maintain and protect bighorn habitat and where feasible increase habitat quality thru water development and decreasing conflicting uses.

- (4) Support this action
- (5) Support this action
- (6) Question the reclassification system
- (7) Management should be to meet reasonable numbers thru proper management, that is water development, reduction of conflicts, protection of important spring sources from live stock, wild horse and burro use etc.
- (8) Support this action
- (9) Support this action
- (10) Emphasis should be on removal of wild horses and burros in areas where there exists grazing competition between these and the native bighorn sheep.

18-1

b. (4) Cost of wild life improvement would be one topic we would like to discuss at a workshop meetings.

c. (7) A very important topic we would like to discuss at workshop meetings.

2. Course of Action II - No Action

a. Components

(6) What about monies for wildlife improvements?

(7) We are opposed to this; we are introducing native bighorn sheep at this time in Historical habitat that they once lived in, through great efforts from clubs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as BLM and we've been very successful.

(8) We oppose this course of action

(9) Several studies in the southwest have shown that wild horse and burro's do have a detrimental impact on native wildlife (desert bighorn, tortoises, etc.) to allow the uncontrolled expansion of wild horse and burro population in numbers and use areas would have a devastating impact on the native species in these areas. We believe that management emphasis should be on native species rather than the exotic wild horse and burro's.

3. Course of Action III

a. Components

(1) Support in part

(2) Strongly support this action

(3) Support this action

(4) Support this action

(5) Support this action

(6) Agree except in areas of conflicting use where wild horse and burro removal should be done.

(7) Monitoring should be less than five years to determine desirable numbers

(8) Oppose this action

b. (1) thru (5) Support this action

4. Course of Action IV

a. Components (1) thru (5) Support this action -

strong support for item (3)

(6) Manage to increase wildlife populations to reasonable numbers thru habitat improvement, habitat protection etc., support reintroduction of bighorn sheep into historic ranges.

(7) Support this action especially conflicting areas

(8) We support reintroduction of bighorn sheep into their historic ranges. We oppose the natural expansion of wild horse and burro habitat.

(9) (10) Refer to #3

(11) Support this action

Request from Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn

1. Manage to attain reasonable numbers of big game thru habitat improvement - water development, elimination of conflicts such as excessive live-stock grazing in high bighorn use areas. Protection of existing spring sources from livestock use - reduction or elimination of wild horses and burros from important bighorn use areas. Support Nevada Department of Wildlife - reintroduction of bighorn into historic ranges.
2. Eliminate competitive ORV use in bighorn sheep ranges in the lambing season (January thru April) hunting season (November thru December). Also restrict any ORV races from running within 1/2 mile of any water source.
3. Remove all domestic sheep grazing in areas occupied or to be occupied by bighorn sheep.

4. Response to Comments

4-1 For analysis purposes in the EIS, initial base herd numbers will be the average of annual licensed use over the five-year period from 1975 through 1979. As monitoring data become available, base herd numbers will be set using the CRMP process.

4-2 The livestock grazing year begins March 1. Operators with perennial preference would receive a notice of their preference in January from BLM. The operator would use that notice as an application for grazing use by indicating on it how much of his preference he intended to use during the grazing year and return the paper to BLM. During February, BLM would send a bill to the operator for his authorized use. The operator would pay the bill prior to March 1 and, during the appropriate grazing period, turn out his livestock on the allotment. Unused but paid for AUMs could be reimbursed to the operator. Application and payment for ephemeral grazing on ephemeral-perennial allotments would be made when forage was available, irrespective of the March 1 beginning of the grazing year.

5-1 The Christmas Tree Pass allotment failed to meet the ephemeral-perennial reclassification criteria for presence of desirable perennial forage plants, elevation of at least 3,200 feet, and annual precipitation of at least 5 inches.

6-1 The Management Facilities component of the Proposed Action was adjusted to reflect these recommendations.

6-2 In making his decision on a grazing management program for Clark County, the District Manager may select components from any or all of the alternatives, including the Proposed Action. Since the AMP update for the Crescent Peak allotment is a component of the Proposed Action, it

is unnecessary to include it in all of the alternatives.

7-1 See response to 6-2.

12-1 The grazing management practices in existence at the time of the scoping process (1981) would continue until implementation of the MFP decision through the CRMP process.

13-1 The White Basin allotment failed to meet the ephemeral-perennial reclassification criteria for elevation of at least 3,200 feet and for annual precipitation of at least 5 inches.

15-1 Impacts of this situation were considered in the preliminary analysis of the EIS and were not found to be significant because 1) springs that are filled in or not maintained for livestock would eventually back up and the water would again be available to wildlife; 2) fences and barricades cannot be constructed (around privately-owned waters) on BLM-administered lands without BLM approval; and 3) operators don't usually turn wells on in the summer, when water is critical to wildlife, anyway.

18-1 Intensive management of those allotments where current or historic bighorn sheep habitat exists is a component of the Natural Resource Protection alternative.

C. CONCLUSION

Issues that scoping comments showed to be of concern are:

- a) reclassification to ephemeral-perennial
- b) management intensity categories
- c) allotment management plans as part of intensive management

- d) pre-licensing inspections of ephemeral forage
- e) effects of grazing management intensity categories on wildlife
- f) water development
- g) reservation of forage for desert tortoise

All of the above issues will be considered in the analysis process and documented in the EIS. Comments on specific range improvements and on intensive management of bighorn habitat were used to change the Proposed Action and the Natural Resource Protection alternative.

1'S CARD

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the scoping
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